United Nations S/2006/117

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 February 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2006, I have the honour to inform you that the African Group has noted with concern the decision of the Security Council to hold separate open debates on the themes "Peacekeeping operation management (procurement)" and "Sexual exploitation in United Nations Peacekeeping missions", scheduled for Wednesday, 22 February and Thursday, 23 February 2006, respectively.

The concern of the Group is based on the fact that issues concerning peacekeeping operation management/procurement as well as sexual exploitation by United Nations peacekeepers fall within the purview of the General Assembly. In that regard, the Group wishes to recall that the General Assembly, which is already actively seized of these issues, had requested the Secretary-General to submit reports thereon for further consideration by the Assembly. It is therefore in this context that the African Group views the decision of the Security Council to consider these issues as not only an encroachment on the responsibilities and functions of the General Assembly, but also inconsistent with the current spirit of the ongoing discussions aimed at the revitalization of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joe Robert **Pemagbi**
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Sierra Leone to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2006

06-24940 (E) 220206